



1213 Center Street

P.O. Box 27187

Lansing, MI 48209

Phone: 517-485-6022

Fax: 517-347-8145

[www.michigantrails.org](http://www.michigantrails.org)

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Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance is pleased to support HR 230, sponsored by Representative Ben Frederick that will express legislative support for the pending national water trails designations of both the Flint and Shiawassee Rivers. These two state and national water corridors are emblematic of the kind of rivers that provide economic and recreation and cultural benefits to those communities located within the watershed.

As we move to support these rivers on a national level, it provides an important lesson for all Michigan citizens that having a state-based water trail program would be suitable and desirable for the water resources that we have in our own backyard. Michigan's water trails program is driven right now by local communities and volunteer groups, but so much more can be accomplished with a statewide program.

Michigan Trails will be advocating in the very near future for funding for a statewide program, but let us first pause to show our support for these two fine rivers and their pending national water trail recognition. The resources, both human and natural behind these rivers are deserving of our commendation!

Sincerely,

Bob Wilson

Executive Director

Affiliated with

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